

WYCOMBE KEEP A FIRM CUP GRIP

Sports Mail Special Report

WYCOMBE Wanderers found Wokingham Town tough and hard hitting opponents in a closely-fought if rather scrappy Berks and Bucks Senior Cup semi-final at Maidenhead, and the cleverer Wanderers took a long time to gain the upper hand, but crossed over two goals up.

Wycombe Wanderers: Bunting; Beck, Lewis; Pullin, Royston, Gale; French, Horseman, Lowin, Balson, Hodges.

Wokingham Town: Hammond; Cox, Harding, Hearmon, Brazier, Lambert; Goodenough, Beavers, Ballard, Phillips, Cole.

Referee: R Saunders (Slough).

Wokingham were more aggressive at the start and Beck and Royston were prominent in breaking up some forceful attacks.

But when Wycombe got going they looked more dangerous and Lowen went near with a neat header from a pass by Balson who came in at the last minute for Williams at inside left.

With short passing out of the question on the rain soaked pitch both sides took the opportunity for a smack at goal at every opportunity.

Bunting did well to turn a powerful shot from Ballard over the bar. At the other end LOWEN, who had just failed to gather a cross from Wycombe's lively left winger Hodges, atoned after 22 minutes when he dashed in to put Wycombe ahead with a lightning drive.

Twice Hodges went near in subsequent Wycombe attacks and Horseman proved a thorn in the harassed Wokingham defence.

Only seconds before half-time HODGES increased Wycombe's lead after a good move by Lowen.

Half-time: Wycombe Wanderers 2, Wokingham 0.

After Woking had failed to take advantage of a defensive error Wycombe increased their lead 12 minutes after the resumption when LOWEN broke through to score a simple goal while the Woking defenders stood apparently appealing for off-side.

Two minutes later as Wycombe exploited weaknesses in the Woking defence the enterprising Horsman nipped through to beat Hammond again for a fourth.

When Goodenough pushed the ball through the middle, BEEVERS who had switched from inside right to centre forward with the injured Ballard on the wing, surprised the Wycombe backs by dashing through to score an easy goal.

Seven minutes before the end LOWEN broke away on his own again to add Wycombe's fifth.

But almost immediately Wokingham swept back for BEEVERS to outwit the defence and beat Bunting a second time.

RESULT:

WYCOMBE WANDERERS 5
WOKINGHAM TOWN 2

Wycombe Wdrs 5 Woknghm 2

CENTRE-FORWARD Peter Lowen steered Wycombe into the final of the Berkshire and Buckinghamshire Senior Cup by scoring three goals and making another in this semi-final at Maidenhead.

Wokingham's hopes of a first-ever appearance in the final vanished the moment Lowen put Wycombe into the lead in the 21st minute and were two down just before half time when Lowen ended a brilliant dribble with a pass from which Hodges scored.

Wokingham attacked spiritedly at the start of the second half but left some alarming gaps in defence. These were fully exploited by the Wycombe attack and Lowen and Tony Horseman, raced through unchallenged in the 56th and 59th minutes to increase Wycombe's lead.

Wally Beavers scored for Wokingham but Lowen broke away to score Wycombe's fifth. Beavers notched another goal for Wokingham just before the end.